

REMARKS

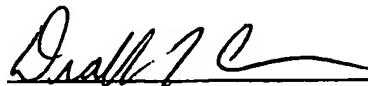
Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application, claim 13 having been canceled, as indicated herein.

Since the Examiner had previously indicated that claims 1-12 are allowed, Applicant believes that this Amendment places this case in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 27, 2004 (December 25, 2004 falling on a holiday)